

GEC 1212**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES****L T P C**
2 0 0 2**OBJECTIVES**

To make the student conversant with the

- various natural resources, availability, utilisation and its current scenario
- different ecosystems, energy transfer, values, threats and conservation of biodiversity
- levels of different pollutants and its impact and the causes and effects of natural disasters
- impacts of human population, impact assessment, human rights and environmental acts and sustainable development

MODULE I NATURAL RESOURCES**8**

Land resources: land degradation, soil erosion and desertification - Forest resources: use and over-exploitation, deforestation - Water resources: use and over-utilisation of surface and ground water, conflicts over water (inter-state and international), dams (benefits and problems), water conservation (rainwater harvesting and watershed management) - Mineral resources: use and exploitation, environmental effects of extracting and using mineral resources, mining - Food resources: world food problems, changes in land use by agriculture and overgrazing, modern agriculture and its effects, fertilizer and pesticide problems, water logging and salinity - Energy resources: increasing energy needs, renewable and non-renewable, use of alternate energy sources.

MODULE II ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY**8**

Ecosystem- energy flow in the ecosystem - food chains, food webs and ecological pyramids - characteristics, structure and function of (a) Terrestrial ecosystems (forest, grassland, desert) and (b) Aquatic fresh water ecosystems (pond, lake, river) (c) Aquatic salt water ecosystems (ocean, estuary) - ecological succession.

Biodiversity - genetic, species and ecosystem diversity – hot-spots of biodiversity – biogeographic classification of India -endangered, endemic, extinct and invasive species of India - red data book - values of biodiversity: consumptive, productive, social, ethical, aesthetic and option values - threats to biodiversity: habitat loss, poaching of wildlife, man-wildlife conflicts - conservation of biodiversity: in-situ and ex-situ conservation of biodiversity

MODULE III ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND NATURAL DISASTER 8

Definition, cause, effects and control measures of (a) air pollution (b) water pollution (c) soil pollution (d) marine pollution (e) noise pollution (f) thermal pollution (g) nuclear hazards - ill-effects of fireworks and upkeep of clean environment - solid waste management: types (urban, industrial, biomedical and electronic wastes), collection, processing and disposal (incineration, composting and land-fill) - natural disaster and management: flood, cyclone, drought, landslide, avalanche, volcanic eruptions, earthquake and tsunami.

MODULE IV HUMAN POPULATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL ISSUES 6

Population and population growth, population variation among nations, population explosion, family welfare programme.

Human health: air-borne, water borne diseases, infectious diseases, risks due to chemicals in food and environment.

Sustainable development - environmental legislation and laws: water act, air act, wildlife protection act, forest conservation act, environment protection act - environmental impact assessment, steps in EIA - human rights - women and child welfare.

Case studies related to current situation**L:30 periods****Total: 30 periods****TEXT BOOKS**

1. Erach Bharucha, Textbook for Environmental Studies For Undergraduate Courses of all Branches of Higher Education for University Grants Commission, Orient Blackswan Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad, India, 2013.
2. Benny Joseph, Environmental Studies, Tata McGraw-Hill Education, India, 2009.
3. Ravikrishnan A, Environmental Science and Engineering, Sri Krishna Publications, Tamil Nadu, India, 2015.
4. Raman Sivakumar, Introduction to Environmental Science and Engineering, McGraw Hill Education, India, 2009.
5. Venugopala Rao P, Principles of Environmental Science and Engineering, Prentice Hall India Learning Private Limited; India, 2006.
6. Anubha Kaushik and Kaushik C.P., Environmental Science and Engineering, New Age International Pvt Ltd., New Delhi, India, 2009.

REFERENCES

1. Masters G.M., Introduction to Environmental Engineering and Science, Prentice Hall, New Delhi, 1997.
2. Henry J.G. and Heike G.W., Environmental Science and Engineering, Prentice Hall International Inc., New Jersey, 1996.
3. Miller T.G. Jr., Environmental Science, Wadsworth Publishing Co. Boston, USA, 2016.

OUTCOMES

The student will be able to

- predict the scenario of various natural resources and suggest remedies to curb the exploitation of these resources.
- identify food chain and web and its role in various ecosystems, assess the impacts on biodiversity and provide solutions to conserve it.
- analyse the impacts of pollutants in the environment and propose suitable method to alleviate the pollutants and the natural disasters.
- assess on the impact of human population and the health related issues and the ethics to be followed for sustainable life.